

# The Tri-Weekly CITIZEN.

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CANTON, MISS.

TUESDAY EVENING, DEC. 22.

## THE LATE LEGISLATURE.

It is the duty of the press and provinces of the people always carefully to examine the acts of their representatives, and condemn or commend as those acts deserve. Under this impression and with a careful desire to do no one injustice, we propose to examine the late Militia law as passed by our Legislature.

It includes all free white males, examples and those who have furnished substitutes, between the ages of seventeen and fifty years of age. Having very little or no regard to occupants, save in a few instances, but taking very particular care to exempt their precious carcasses and others who are feeding and fattening upon treasury pap of State or Confederate Government.

In the second place it is the most tawdry, sycophantic, lickspittle document that ever emanated from the brain of the merest fawner at the foot of power or pandem to the prejudices of the greatest despot that sits upon a throne in Europe or Asia. It goes on to enact such and such shall be done, provided the commander-in-chief, or the Governor, shall not deem, think, believe, or suggest otherwise. In a word, by the provisions of the bill, Gov. Clark, is as complete an autocrat in Mississippi as the one who sits as the Czar of all the Russias at Petersburg. The fact is, the fulsome manner in which the thing is repeated, dwelt upon and re-iterated, is well calculated to have disgusted that noble old chieftan whose voice and sword has ever been raised and unsheathed in honor and defence of pure republican principles, and to maintain the individual rights of the citizens of our State.

For the last twelve months the Militia system "stunk in the nostrils" of nearly every thinking man in the State. Gov. Pettus, a clever gentleman and true patriot, we believe, by his adherence to it, has sunk so deep in public esteem that we are afraid the hand of the resurrectionist, in the day of final accounts, will hardly find him, and any other party who will attempt to execute the late law, with all its sycophancy and absurdities, will find they are a long, long way below Gov. Pettus.

Is there no relief or protection? We believe there is. The time has not yet come when the people are as pliant as these men who passed this late law. Gov. Clark is a patriot in the fullest sense of the word. He is a republican according to the old acceptance of the term, at least that is our opinion. If the lust of power and position shall have changed all that was noble in his nature, (which we cannot believe,) the voice of the people can and should be heard in this matter. Memorialise, suggest and petition, and we have but little doubt their desires and petitions will be favorably considered.

Let the people, in their public meetings, take the matter in hand, and represent to the Governor that one-half nearly of the wives and children in the land are without necessary provisions to last the next six months. The Confederate law takes every one able to be spared for service, and that both army and people will be left to starve if this system is persisted in. Such suggestions will, no doubt, be listened to and the State relieved from the stupid action of a portion of the late Legislature.

## THE BLOCKADE.

Among a number of important bills brought before the House, we notice one "To prevent all exports and imports except on Government account."

We hope the bill will have a thorough ventilation, and if it is proved to be a detriment to the country, which we think can easily be proved, we hope it will be passed. The time has come when our people must either make up their minds to be free, or sink forever the hope of liberty, and for the future live slaves to the hated Yankee race. The past and the present condition of our country proclaims in language not to be mistaken, that the death struggle is upon us and that it will require the united strength of Southern arms and wisdom of Southern statesmanship, to carry the flag of Southern freedom triumphantly to the end.

What then must be our course? It is to consolidate our strength for one last effort, to throw aside every thought and action which will tend to withdraw our mind from the all important subject of our independence, and by enlisting the energy and talents of our whole people to achieve that which will give to our children and our children's children, the glorious heritage of freedom.

That blockade running has done some good to the country we do not deny, but that that good has not been more than over-balanced by a depreciated currency, by calling a large number of our people from the pure and nobler thoughts of liberty to that of dishonest gain, to the advancement in price of all which goes to make up the necessities of the people, none who have seen its effects will doubt. Private fortunes have been made at the expense of the people at large. Merchandise has been imported and will continue to be imported, which is a detriment to our cause by its demoralizing effects upon us, and it makes thousands of our people evade their duty to their country by seeing the rapid and increasing fortunes of their neighbor, which they too wish to accomplish.

Let the Government take the matter in hand, import such goods as is necessary to the wants of our army and people, stop the deluge of the adulterated liquors, costly silks, and inferior fabrics of all kinds, palmed upon us for genuine articles, which is now thrown upon the country, and Congress will find that an important step has been taken to retrieve an almost ruined currency, and strengthening the army by a more concentrated determination on the part of the people to bring this war to a speedy and honorable close.—Clarion.

## The "Anarchy of Passion" in America.

From the London Times.]

We wonder at a free people submitting to outrages on the freedom of the subject, the liberty of the press, and the rights of property, which would have raised a revolution at any time in the history of this country; but the truth is the Americans do not think about the matter, they are possessed of a wild madness for a particular object, whether attainable or not, and they will dash themselves against any obstructions to reach it. The great work of a President of so excitable a people ought to be to direct these uneducated and fanatic impulses, and to control them into an ordinary and reasonable path. But the President himself is as much possessed as the rest. He gives no thought to the results of his policy, he has no plan for a compromise with the South; he identifies himself with one of the great parties of the State, and is carried away with them, he knows not where.

The consequence is that every passion and every madness surges unchecked over the vast territory of the States. Men are let loose by the President's own example from all obligations but that of gaining their object, and they regard neither justice nor humanity in pursuing it. If passion and reason in union constitute a perfect character, the Americans may be best described as creatures of passion, without reason, or only that lower acuteness of understanding which enables them to adapt the means to their immediate ends. We are led to these remarks by two or three incidents in the American intelligence which we published yesterday. A Senator of the United States, speaking in the peaceful State of Maine boasts that "there are forty-four regiments in New York to help the government to enforce the draft, and there is not one of them who would not sooner shoot a copperhead, put a bullet thro' his brain, than he would shoot a rebel;" and the assertion was repeated twice for greater distinctness. Let our readers try to imagine language like this used by an English statesman of note in an address to his constituents, and they may be able to form some idea of the anarchy of passion which possesses the Americans. It displays a blind and senseless ferocity emancipated from all regard to law and order by what the President considers the necessity of war. Such language, no doubt, says a great deal more than it means; but words react on the heart and head, and it does not want much more such talking as this to transform the United States into a sort of Mexico, a mere stage for lawless violence and selfish ferocity.

The highest and most characteristic glory of all earthly beauty is to make us aspire to a heavenly one; and a woman is great in proportion to the ideal she suggests.

## LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

### FROM DALTON.

DALTON, Dec. 21.—Enemy's force at Cleveland consist of about forty men, who are acting couriers between Chattanooga and Knoxville. Nothing important from the front.

### FROM BRISTOL.

BRISTOL, Dec. 21.—Officers from the front, state our forces are moving forward in direction of Knoxville. All the country between Bean's Station and Morristown have been cleared of the enemy. Only three hundred prisoners were captured in the engagement at Bean's Station. As men stopped to pillage wagon trains, loaded with coffee, sugar, canned hams and shoes, many more might have been captured.

Reports from below state Johnson and Echols have overtaken Union raiders and probably would capture entire party. Enemy had overturned wagons and were destroying their artillery to prevent its falling into our hands. Five Yankees captured three miles from Cumberland Gap, by our cavalry, arrived today. Railroad between here and Lynchburg will be put in running order by Saturday.

### FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, Dec. 21st.—Congress is getting ready its most important work, and proceedings after this week will be of highest importance.

The Chairman of Committee on military affairs presented in the House, today, a bill "to continue in service, to end of war, all soldiers now in service, or who shall hereafter enter same, and shall remain in existing organization. This bill is not a committee report, but was presented for consideration of House, and at request of the author was referred to his committee.

Another member presented a resolution that if any part of the army be re-conscripted, it shall be allowed to elect company and regimental officers.

MONITE, Dec. 21.—No news by telegraph, except the Yankee raid on Salem, Va., in which the Confederates come out second best. Not much damage done.

## Important Northern News.

RICHMOND, Dec. 19.—The death of Senator Pryor of Missouri, was announced in both Houses, and no business transacted in either House. United States dates of the 18th. Correspondent of the Boston Herald writes from Charleston harbor, says Dalgren is preparing for a grand movement. The Iron Clads will not leave this department until the Federal flag waves over Charleston or its ruins. Reports from Nashville state that Sherman is in pursuit of Longstreet, and met with a repulse from the rebel rear guard, in which he was severely wounded. In the Yankee House of Representatives, on the sixteenth, Rollins of Missouri, offered resolutions in substance the same as the Crittenden resolutions, that the war was brought on by disunionists, but should not be prosecuted for conquest or subjugation when obedience to the Constitution and laws is secured it ought to stop. Lovejoy moved to lay the resolutions on the table. Lost—yeas, 52; nays, 114. Washburne of Illinois, expressed wish to debate the resolutions, which was laid on the table. The New York Herald advocates Gen. Grant as the next President. The Tribune says a more laudable document than Davis' message we never read. All is darkness and despair. Southbury of Delaware, refused to take the loyalty oath, and this is likely to create trouble in the Senate. The Herald says that McDougall will introduce joint resolution in the Senate, declaring the French invasion of Mexico unfriendly to the United States, and inquiring if it be the duty of the United States to declare war against France. Fernando Wood submitted a resolution that the President be required to appoint three committees empowered to open negotiations with Confederate authorities at Richmond, to the end that this bloody and destructive inhuman war shall cease, and the Union be restored upon terms of equality under the constitution. Washburne moved that it be laid on the table. Carried—yeas, 98; nays, 59. Resolution instructing the Judiciary committee to report bill repealing the fugitive slave law, was laid on the table, by 69 majority.

MONITE, Dec. 20.—Special despatch from Oxford 18th, says northern dates of 16th state a battery fired into steamer Brazil near Rodney, on Friday, last. Two ladies and one soldier killed and many wounded. Another battery fired into steamer Van Phul, at mouth Red River. Five killed and several wounded and boat riddled with bullets. River reported unsafe for navigation unless convoy accompany boats. A Cairo despatch to Chicago Times reports rebel force of eight thousand concentrated at Raleigh, West Tennessee, supposed to be with the view to attack Fort Pillow. Evidently refers to Forrest.

### FROM DALTON.

DALTON, Dec. 18.—A despatch from the President announces Gen. Johnston has been appointed commander of Army of Tennessee. Sherman's corps returned from East Tennessee to Chattanooga. It is bitter cold.

### FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, Dec. 18.—The House instructed Judiciary committee to inquire into expediency of amending impressment act so as to exempt enough food for supply of non-producers. Military committee was instructed to enquire whether tax in kind cannot better be collected and garnered by citizens not liable to military duty, thus sending back to field able-bodied officers and soldiers engaged on that work, and taking whole matter out of hands of Quartermasters department.

The Judiciary committee having considered many resolutions heretofore submitted on sub-

ject impressment, reported an important bill. It repeals the act of 27th April, last, authorizing impressing officers when dissatisfied with award of local appraisers to apply to State Commissioners. It repeals also so much of original account papers 25th March as authorizes State Commissioners to meet at certain points and fix prices.

### FROM ORANGE C. H.

ORANGE, C. H., Dec. 18.—There is no change this week. Maj. Gen. Hindman resumed command of his old corps. Persons desiring to enter these lines with clothing for the troops, should address their communications to commanders of regiments to which their friends belong, in order that their names may serve as vouchers or guides for setting on commanding General.

### FROM BRISTOL.

BRISTOL, Dec. 18.—Late raid on Salem has caused intense excitement here. Johnson's division attacked a force of mounted infantry, about four thousand strong, at Bird's Station on Monday, and gradually drove them back after stubborn resistance, and heavy loss, in direction of Knoxville, pursuit continued throughout Tuesday and Wednesday, during which time we captured a train of seventy wagons loaded with stores and clothing, and many prisoners, our forces are moving in direction of Knoxville to which place the Yankees have fled. Our loss is killed and wounded about three hundred. Gen. Gracie slightly wounded in arm is here, enroute for Mobile. Two hundred and twenty-five prisoners have arrived here.

### LATEST FROM TEXAS.

HOUSTON, Texas, Feb. 23d, via Summit, Dec. 19. The following is the latest reliable information received from the West. It is the telegraph of this morning.

The expedition under Gen. Banks is believed to be about 6000 strong, composed of the commands of Gen'l Dana and Vandever. They lost three steamers and four schooners as well as a considerable amount of stores and munitions of war, horses, while on the trip and in making the landing.

About half the command are black troops. Davis, with his regiment, about one hundred and fifty strong, and Raynes, with a Federal commission as Colonel of the 2d Texas cavalry, but with no troops, are along. They have a large supply of teams and horse equipments. They design to enlist Mexicans on the Rio Grande and negroes in the interior, as they progress.

As soon as information of Banks having landed successfully can be conveyed to Franklin, he and Orr are to move on Texas from Berwick Bay.

The forces are to meet and sweep the country with desolation as far as they can go, sparing neither unionists nor Secessionists.

From Brownsville we learn that Mayor Dye and Bigelow and Palmer and others who have claimed to be good citizens, will have taken the oath.

Gen. Cobos assumed command of Brownsville after we left, and claimed to give the people protection from lawlessness. He accompanied the Mayor to meet Banks, after giving in their submission to the Federal conqueror. Cobos crossed the river and pronounced against Cortinas, overthrew his government and held the reins of power for twenty-four hours, at the end of which time Cortinas shot him in the Plaza Saluria.

Nov. 14th.—The Yankees are advancing on this direction and have effected a foothold at Aransas Pass. On the night of the 15th they landed a force supposed to be 5000 strong in the power end of Mustang Island, and marched on the Fort. All the passengers were conveyed in five sailing vessels, transports.

On the morning of the 17th they made the attack with this force, five steamers from the sea co-operating.

The fort was defended by three small guns and one hundred men, most of which were State troops.

The engagement lasted two hours and twenty-five minutes, when our troops surrendered, being overwhelmed with numbers. The loss on either side is not known. The attack began at daybreak. The plan of the enemy appears to be to take such points as he can up the coast, with the view of getting a gaze near his proposed field of operations. There can be no doubt that he meditates the conquest of the State.

HOUSTON, Nov. 23.—The Legislature of Texas has refused to pass a resolution recommending Congress to make Confederate treasury notes a legal tender.

The Legislature is believed to be under conservative influence, though it is most deeply devoted to the Confederate cause.

Gen. Slaughter of Mobile is in this city with his staff. Reports of the Indians' depredations on the frontier are frequent and alarming. I learn the Indians are armed by the Yankees and sent upon defenceless frontier to lay it waste. The small-pox has made its appearance in this city.

Gen. Walker's division is now on the Mississippi pegging away, they have already sunk one transport, burned another and four barges, and burned the huge transport Black Hawk. Nothing can pass their batteries unless convoyed by iron clads, and even then we hear of much lamentation on board before they get out of reach of our guns.—Quantrill is at Shreveport. Official information has been received of the capture of Corpus Christi by the enemy.

The communication signed "Baggs," will appear in our next issue.